



STATE OF WASHINGTON

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

711 South Capitol Way, Ste. 402 • PO Box 42490 • Olympia, WA 98504-2490

(360) 753-6770 • 1-800-233-3247 • FAX (360) 586-2282

www.hum.wa.gov

RESOLUTION

Resisting Nazi Incursions in Washington State

American Nazis, especially those from the National Socialist Movement (NSM), are organizing in Washington State. In recent months, they have held rallies in several cities in the State, including Olympia, to try to spread their message of lies, hate and intolerance. Their numbers are small, but they have a vigorous new leader in Washington State, sophisticated in manipulating the media to obtain publicity.

After consulting with the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), the Japanese-American Citizen's League (JACL), the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), and many other groups, it is agreed that the Nazis will not go away simply by ignoring them. We fully realize their rights to freedom of speech and assembly. In the marketplace of ideas, we need to make a persuasive case that tolerance, nondiscrimination, equity, and fairness are much truer and more valuable American ideals than the ones the Nazis promulgate.

The Nazi message is a hateful one, against people of color, Jews, gays and lesbians, and people with disabilities. The Commissioners and staff of the Washington State Human Rights Commission are deeply troubled to learn of the appearance of Nazis in Washington State. They are a shocking reminder that racism and hate crimes continue to seek a foothold in the Pacific Northwest.

For the Commission, which has been tasked with preventing and eliminating discrimination in the state of Washington since 1949, the appearance of Nazis is a disturbing and painful reminder that there is still much work to be done in human and civil rights.

The Commission urges individuals and groups to take a peaceful stand against the Nazis and engage in lawful efforts to speak out against them; demonstrate the superiority of fairness, diversity, and equity; and especially talk to young people about the dangerous, destructive, and anti-democratic path taken by Nazis. We will continue to counter the efforts of the Nazis through contact with local groups such as Unity in the Community, sponsoring showings of films such as *Not in Our Town* (recounting the efforts of Billings, Montana, when Nazis invaded in 1995); and by interacting with local law enforcement and community-based chapters of civil rights organizations.

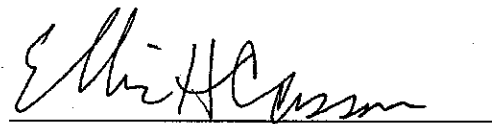
Other community efforts include a speakers' bureau, reaching into the schools, a diversity fair, and dialog circles. The point is to take positive and life-enhancing action, while avoiding confrontation with the Nazis and giving them the publicity they seek. We urge

all Washingtonians to take a stand in favor of respect, peace, and justice. Together we can show that the best spirit of Washington stands strongly against the discredited and violent Nazi ideology.

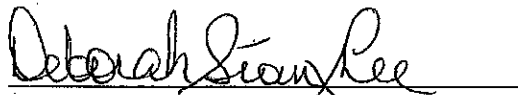
For these reasons, we, the Commissioners of the Washington State Human Rights Commission, sign this resolution.

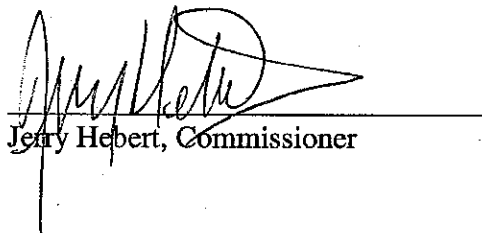
Signed this 26th day of May 2006:


Kathy Baros Friedt, Commission Chair


Ellis H. Casson, Commissioner


Dallas Barnes, Commissioner


Deborah Sioux Lee, Commissioner


Jerry Hebert, Commissioner


Marc Brenman, Executive Director